

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Environmental Assessment DOI BLM UT Y010-2016-0020  
December 2015**

**North Klondike Bluffs Trailhead**

***Location: Grand County, UT***

***Applicant/Address: BLM Moab Field Office***

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Moab Field Office  
82 E. Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532  
Phone: 435-259-2100



# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The BLM Moab Field Office, with the cooperation of its partner, Grand County Trail Mix, proposes to make improvements to parking for the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area of the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Special Recreation Management Area. The North Klondike area is located approximately 23 miles north of Moab; it is east of Highway 191 and west of Arches National Park. (It should be noted that the southern entrance to the Focus Area is on land administered by the State of Utah.) As popularity of the Klondike area for cycling has increased, vehicle parking has spilled over to wherever people can find to park.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The need for the proposed action is to provide trailhead and parking facilities (including a toilet and kiosk) for mountain bikers and hikers using the North Klondike bicycle trail system and the Dinosaur Stomping Ground Hiking Trail. People are currently parking wherever they can; the purpose of the proposed action (providing a trailhead parking area) is to contain the parking that is occurring on the northern end of the Focus Area. In addition, recreation events are occasionally headquartered in the area and the proposed trailhead parking area would provide a venue for events. The increasing use of this area has necessitated the addition of a toilet, shade shelters, picnic tables, and information kiosks.

The purpose of the proposed action is to authorize construction of trailhead parking lot improvements at the northern entrance to the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area.

### **CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)**

This action is in conformance with a specific decision in the 2008 Moab RMP. Decision REC-39 established the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Within that SRMA, The Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area (14.626 acres) was established to provide "mountain-bike only opportunities". This action adds an amenity for cyclists visiting that Focus Area.

### **RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS**

The proposed action is consistent with the Grand County General Plan (2012), which includes the following strategy: Strategy E - Maintain and enhance the recreational, scenic, and cultural amenities unique to Grand County to attract and sustain economic activity.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This EA focuses on the Proposed and No Action alternatives. The No Action alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action.

#### **PROPOSED ACTION**

The BLM proposes to improve the North Klondike Bluffs Bike Trail system parking area. (See attached diagram of proposed trailhead parking lot). This trailhead would serve the bike trails in the North Klondike area, as well as near-by hiking trails such as the Dinosaur Stomping Ground. The improvements would include:

- 1) flattening and gravelling the parking lot,
- 2) providing a toilet,
- 3) delineating the parking lot with rocks or fencing,
- 4) adding a shade shelter, picnic tables and a kiosk.

The parking area is conceived as occurring in two phases, with 32 parking spots provided in Phase I and an additional 32 parking spots provided in Phase II. The parking area has been designed to accommodate natural drainages and storm water runoff, and thus reduce additional erosion.

#### **NO ACTION**

The No Action Alternative would be to undertake no improvements to the parking situation at the north end of the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

#### **INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING**

The affected environment of the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives were considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist, Appendix A. The checklist indicates which resources of concern are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis.

Recreation could be impacted to a level requiring further analysis; this resource is described in this chapter, and impacts on this resource are analyzed in Chapter 4 below.

The proposed parking lot is located at the northern entrance to the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area (within the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges SRMA), east of U.S. Highway 191 and west of Arches National Park. The attached diagram shows the location of the proposed parking lot.

**Recreation**

The area of the proposed parking lot is within the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus area. The area is used extensively for bicycle recreation. The area is also used by hikers, especially during the winter; the trailhead would also serve the increasing popular Dinosaur Stomping Ground hike (which accesses a large number of dinosaur tracks). The bike trails in the Klondike Bluffs area have become increasingly popular with the public and with outfitters guiding bicycling clients. The need for trailhead parking has increased with the popularity of the trail system; in addition, the need for sanitation facilities and for picnic tables has increased with the increasing use. Bicycle events have a need for a staging area; the proposed parking area would provide that venue.

## **CHAPTER 4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

**DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS****PROPOSED ACTION**

This section analyzes the impacts of the proposed action to those resources described in the Affected Environment, Chapter 3, above.

**Recreation**

The trailhead parking lot construction in the northern part of the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area would provide a benefit to mountain bikers and hikers by providing an improved parking area for them. This parking lot infrastructure would include a toilet, thus improving sanitation in the area. The new lot would also include picnic tables, a shade shelter and information boards, which would enhance the experience of recreationists using the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area. In addition, the trailhead would provide a venue for bicycle events.

Taller and light-colored vehicles at the trailhead may be visible from U.S. Highway 191 for a very short period time. However, the speed limit on that Highway is 65 mph at that location and the volume of traffic usually keeps drivers focused on the highway. The entrance to the county dump and a tall microwave tower are also directly in view along Highway 191 at that location, so the addition of a parking area over a mile away would not add appreciably to the visual intrusion from the highway.

Consolidation of much of the parking into one trailhead lot would be a visual improvement on the current situation for visitors entering the North Klondike area. Currently, vehicles are scattered along the entrance road and parked at wherever is convenient. Thus, the view of recreationists within the Focus Area itself would be improved by the Proposed Action, as vehicles would be consolidated in one location.

**NO ACTION**

The No Action alternative does not meet the need for the proposed action, which is to provide an improved trailhead parking lot at the northern entrance to the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area.

## Recreation

The improved parking lot with a toilet, picnic tables, shade shelters and kiosks would not be provided for the recreation community. Sanitation would continue to be a problem at the impromptu parking areas that have developed along the entrance road. Bicyclists and hikers would not get needed information, and access to the designated hiking and biking trails would not be improved. Vehicles would continue to be scattered along the entrance road, impacting the visual resources that visitors come to the area to see.

## CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. There is no further development foreseen in the project area. It has been determined that cumulative impacts to recreation would be negligible as a result of the proposed action because impacts of the proposed action itself are negligible.

## CHAPTER 5

### PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action and EA by posting on the ePlanning website on November 4, 2015. The BLM has not been contacted in response to this notice. The proposal has been discussed at several Trail Mix meetings, which are open to the public. In addition, the project was the recipient of a Utah State Parks Non-Motorized Trails Grant, and was reviewed by the committee that awards the Utah State Parks non-motorized grants.

**Table 5.1. List of BLM Preparers**

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Ann Marie Aubry	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Floodplains, Soils, Water Resources,
Mark Grover	Fisheries	Wetlands
Pam Riddle	Wildlife Biologist	T and E Animals, Migratory Birds, BLM Sensitive Species, Fish and Wildlife
Dave Williams	Range Management Specialist	T and E Plants
Jordan Davis	Range Management Specialist	Grazing, Rangeland Health Standards, Vegetation, Woodlands/Forestry, Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds
Bill Stevens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Natural Areas, Wilderness/WSA, Socioeconomics, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Environmental Justice
Jared Lundell	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Katie Stevens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	ACECs, Recreation, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Visual Resources
David Pals	Geologist	Geology, Wastes
Jan Denney	Realty Specialist	Lands and Realty
ReBecca Hunt Foster	Paleontologist	Paleontology

## Appendices and Attachments

Appendix A: Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist

Diagram of Proposed Project

# INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

**Project Title:** North Klondike Bluff Trailhead

**NEPA Log Number:** DOI BLM UT Y010-2016-0020 EA

**Project Leader:** Katie Stevens

**DETERMINATION OF STAFF:** *(Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)*

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

The following elements are not present in the Moab Field Office and have been removed from the checklist:  
Farmlands (Prime or Unique), Wild Horses and Burros.

Determi- nation	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
<b>RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)</b>				
NI	Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions		A M Aubry	11/13/15
NI	Floodplains	Facilities would be designed to accommodate natural drainages and storm water runoff, which would reduce additional erosion.	A M Aubry	11/13/15
NI	Soils		A M Aubry	11/13/15
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)		A M Aubry	11/13/15
NP	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	No wetlands/riparian	Mark Grover	11/10/15
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	See 2008 Moab RMP	K. Stevens	11/10/15
PI	Recreation	Would provide recreation benefit	K. Stevens	11/10/15
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	See 2008 Moab RMP	K. Stevens	11/10/15
NI	Visual Resources	Would improve visuals by placing all parking within the same location; some taller vehicles might be visible from Highway 191 for a very short period of time.	K. Stevens	11/10/15
NP	BLM Natural Areas	See 2008 Moab RMP	W.P. Stevens	11/10/15
NI	Socio-Economics		W.P. Stevens	11/10/15
NP	Wilderness/WSA	See 2008 Moab RMP	W.P. Stevens	11/10/15
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	See 2008 Moab RMP	W.P. Stevens	11/10/15
NP	Cultural Resources	BLM conducted a literature search and a Class III archaeological inventory of the project area. The BLM found no properties eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. The BLM, therefore, made a determination of No Historic Properties Affected. Details of these finds are discussed in the Cultural Resource Inventory Report (U-15-BL-0896). BLM will consult with the Utah SHPO in	M. Jared Lundell	12/9/15

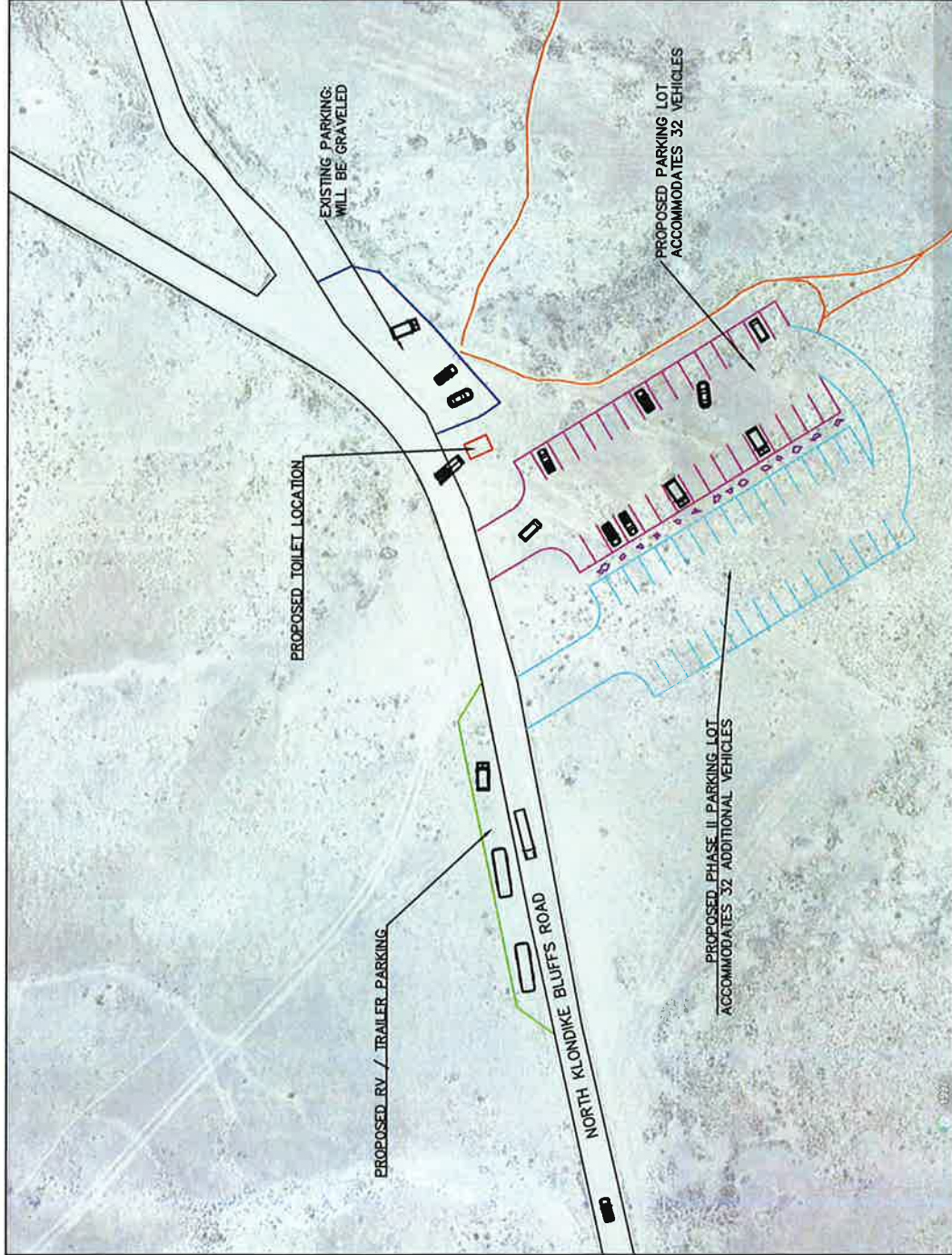
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
		accordance with the threshold procedures for small projects specified in the Utah BLM/Utah SHPO Statewide Small-scale Undertakings Programmatic Agreement.		
NP	Native American Religious Concerns	No known sites of religious or cultural significance to Native American tribes are within the project area	M. Jared Lundell	12/9/15
NI	Environmental Justice		W.P. Stevens	11/10/15
NP	Wastes (hazardous or solid)		Dave Pals	11/10/15
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species		Pam Riddle	11/12/15
NI	Migratory Birds	Minimal additional surface disturbance adjacent to highly used recreation trails.	Pam Riddle	11/12/15
NI	Utah BLM Sensitive Species	No new or additional impacts expected to habitat or populations.	Pam Riddle	11/12/15
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species	No new or additional impacts expected to habitat or populations.	Pam Riddle	11/12/15
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	By making the parking occur in one place, it would corral the recreationists. Weeds already exist here, but might be contained by this action.	Jordan Davis	11/16/15
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species		Dave Williams	11/16/15
NI	Livestock Grazing		Kim Allison	11/16/15
NI	Rangeland Health Standards		Kim Allison	11/16/15
NI	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species	Less than an acre of total disturbance in a previously disturbed area.	Kim Allison	11/16/15
NP	Woodland / Forestry	No trees are found within the project area; action would not impact woodlands.	Jordan Davis	11/16/15
NP	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production		David Pals	11/10/15
NI	Lands/Access	Subject to valid existing rights	J Denney	11/13/15
NI	Paleontology		ReBecca Hunt Foster	12/9/15

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**FINAL REVIEW:**

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	<i>Kate Stevens</i>	12/10/15	
Authorized Officer	<i>Beth Rans</i>	12/16/15	





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
CANYON COUNTRY DISTRICT, MOAB FIELD OFFICE UTAH

NORTH KLONDIKE BLUFFS TRAILHEAD PARKING

DESIGNED:	M. MCMAHON
DRAWN:	M. MCMAHON
TECH. REVIEW:	DAN STENTA P.E.
DWR. SCALE:	NOT TO SCALE
DATE:	OCTOBER 29, 2015
FILE:	



**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record  
Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2016-0020-EA**

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**December 2015**

**North Klondike Bluffs Trailhead**

***Location: Grand County, Utah***

***Applicant/Address: BLM Moab Field Office***

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Bureau of Land Management  
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# FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

## Environmental Assessment DOI BLM UT Y010 2016-0020 EA

### North Klondike Bluffs Trailhead

#### INTRODUCTION:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (DOI BLM UT Y010 2016 0020) for a proposed action to improve the parking area on public lands in the northern part of the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area. The project would provide parking facilities and a toilet on public land. It would serve the North Klondike Bluffs bike trails as well as the Dinosaur Stomping Ground hiking trail. The underlying need for the proposal would be met while accomplishing the following objectives:

1. The proposed parking lot would provide recreation amenities to users of the area; these improvements include toilets, picnic tables, shade shelters and kiosks. This would improve sanitation, increase enjoyment of the area, and provide important information to recreation users.
2. The proposed parking lot would be flattened and graveled, thus improving access. It would be delineated with rocks or fencing to inhibit inappropriate parking by the public.

The project is within the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area. . EA#DOI BLM UT Y010 2016-0020 is attached, and is incorporated by reference for this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A no action alternative and the proposed action alternative were analyzed in the EA.

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the 2008 Moab RMP/FEIS. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed.

This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described:

**Context:** The project is a site-specific action directly involving less than one acre of land already heavily impacted by the unorganized parking habits of the public. This by itself does not have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance.

**Intensity:** The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27 and incorporated into resources and issues considered (includes supplemental authorities Appendix 1 H-1790-1) and supplemental Instruction Memorandum, Acts, regulations and Executive Orders.

The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

1. **Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse.** The Proposed Action would impact resources as described in the EA. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed those described in the 2008 Moab RMP/FEIS. Beneficial impacts to mountain bike users and to the local economy are analyzed within the EA.
2. **The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or safety.** The Proposed Action provides a safer parking lot and provides needed sanitation facilities to the area, thus enhancing public health and safety.

3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.** The historic and cultural resources of the area have been inventoried and none were present. The following components of the Human Environment and Resource Issues are not affected because they are not present in the project area: Wetlands, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers, BLM Natural Areas, Wilderness/WSA, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns, Wastes, Woodlands, Geology, Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant or Animal Species. In addition, the following components of the Human Environment and Resource Issues, although present, would not be affected by this proposed action for the reasons listed in Appendix A of the EA: Air Quality, Floodplains, Water Resources, Visual Resources, Environmental Justice, Migratory Birds, Utah BLM Sensitive Species, Fish and Wildlife, Invasive Species, Livestock Grazing, Soils, RHS, Vegetation, Lands, Paleontology and Woodlands. A survey was undertaken for cultural resources, and none were found. One component, Recreation, was analyzed in detail in Chapter 4. Recreation would be beneficially impact by providing an improved parking area, with toilets, picnic tables, kiosks and shade shelters.
4. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** There is no scientific controversy over the nature of the impacts.
5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** The project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas. The environmental effects to the human environment are fully analyzed in the EA. There are no predicted effects on the human environment that are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.
6. **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The actions considered in the selected alternative were considered by the interdisciplinary team within the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete analysis of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the selected alternative and all other alternatives is described in Chapter 4 of the EA.
7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts – which include connected actions regardless of land ownership.** The interdisciplinary team evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete disclosure of the effects of the project is contained in Chapter 4 of the EA.
8. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.** The project will not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor will it cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. A cultural inventory has been completed for the proposed action, and all cultural resources were either avoided or mitigated.
9. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, or the degree to which the action may adversely affect: 1) a proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or its habitat, or 2) a species on BLM's sensitive species list.** There are no Threatened or Endangered species present within the project area.

**10. Whether the action threatens a violation of a federal, state, local, or tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-federal requirements are consistent with federal requirements.** The project does not violate any known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

  
Authorized Officer

12/16/15  
Date

## **DECISION RECORD**

### **DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2016-0020-EA**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (EA # DOI- BLM-UT-Y010-2016-0020) for improving the parking area in the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area. Improvements include flattening and gravelling the parking lot, providing a toilet, delineating the parking lot with rocks obtained from the piles on-site, and adding a shade shelter, picnic tables, and a kiosk. Two alternatives were analyzed for their environmental impacts (Proposed Action and No Action).

It is my decision to approve the Proposed Action, which authorizes the parking lot improvements. The approved parking lot will be available for private, commercial and organized group use. See the aerial photo in the above referenced EA for a map of the lot. This EA is attached to this Decision Record.

**Authorities:** The authority for this decision is in CFR 43 8360 – Visitor Services.

**Compliance and Monitoring:** No monitoring is required. The BLM will ensure that the proponent follows the terms, conditions and stipulations that are outlined below.

#### **PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY:**

The Proposed Action has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the 2008 Moab BLM Resource Management Plan, which establishes the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Special Recreation Management Area (Decision REC-39). Within that Special Recreation Management Area, the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area was established to provide “mountain-bike only opportunities”.

The proposed action is also consistent with the Grand County General Plan (2012), which includes the following strategy: maintain and enhance the recreational, scenic and cultural amenities unique to Grand County to attract and sustain economic activity.

**Rationale for Decision:** the Proposed Action meets the purpose and need for the project by providing parking lot improvements in an area that was allocated to mountain bike use in the Moab RMP. There are no significant impacts to any resources located in the parking lot.

The public was notified of the proposed action by posting on the ePlanning website on November 4, 2015. The proposal was discussed at meetings open to the public by Trail Mix, a county-sponsored committee. The project was awarded a Utah State Parks grant for construction, and was subject to the review of the Utah State Parks Board. No scoping comments were received.

#### **Protest/Appeal Language:**

The decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on December 11, 2015. Within 30 days of this decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at Moab Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b)), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant’s success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and

4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the Authorized Officer.

A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 6201 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1180, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.

  
Authorized Officer

12/16/15  
Date

**Attachments:** EA # DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2016-0020, which includes a diagram of the Proposed Action